

With this special publication, the North Carolina AHEC Program is proud to present a short history of the AHEC Program in North Carolina in recognition of the 40th Anniversary of the Program.

UNC Gets Contract For Health Centers

Reprinted from *The Chapel Hill News*, Volume 50, Number 94, Friday, October 6, 1972



WORK SESSION – the staff of the UNC Medical School's Division of Education and Research in Community Care wrote a proposal that brought the \$8.5 million contract to the University. Here in a work session, they listen to Glenn Wilson, now project director, talk about the need for better distribution of health manpower across the State. From left, around the table, are John Payne, Shirley Jacobs, Faye Pickard, Ann Francis, Jim Vaughn, John Parker, Dr. Glenn Pickard, Moses Carey, Sally Powell, Dr. Eugene Mayer, Vince Kavel, Ethridge Price, Dr. W. Reece Berryhill and Glenn Wilson.

Chapel Hill — The University has been awarded an \$8.5 million contract to develop a Statewide system of area health education centers.

Congressman Nick Galifianakis' office reported that \$2,617,269 has already been allotted for the first phase of the five-year program.

"This contract, one of the largest ever received by the University, was developed under the leadership of the Medical School. Glenn Wilson, associate dean for community health services in the Medical School, will serve as project director," UNC Chancellor Ferebee Taylor announced.

The goal of the area health education centers will be to improve the quantity, quality and distribution of health manpower throughout the State. The new centers will emphasize training programs to meet the health manpower needs of service areas surrounding the centers.

The contract proposal, funded by the Bureau of Health Manpower Education of the National Institute of Health, is built upon the hospital affiliation agreements established by the UNC Medical School during recent years through State appropriations and support from the North Carolina Regional Medical Program.

Dr. C.C. Fordham III, dean of the Medical School, said, "This contract award will not only enable the Medical School to strengthen and expand its programs but will involve all five schools in the UNC Division of Health Affairs – Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, Public Health and Pharmacy.

In the first year of the contract, area health education centers will be established in three parts of the State. Community hospitals in Roanoke Rapids, Rocky Mount, and Tarboro will form the basis of one center in eastern North Carolina. A second center will be established in Wilmington and a third at the Charlotte Memorial Hospital in Charlotte. The second and third year of the contract provide for the establishment of additional centers, most likely with other affiliated hospitals of the UNC School of Medicine.

More than 60 percent of the total contract will be used in the community service areas of the various centers, through sub-contracts with the University. This regional use of funds will strengthen and expand the number of health professionals throughout the State.

In addition to providing undergraduate, graduate and continuing education for all health professionals, the area health education centers will support new programs to provide primary medical care in areas currently designated as underserved.

The Medical School has five years of experience with affiliated hospital programs across the State. Initially, the medical school program was funded by the North Carolina Regional Medical Program, and since 1969 has been substantially supported by appropriations from the General Assembly. Some community hospitals have received additional support from the Duke Endowment to aid in these programs.

Affiliation agreements between the Medical School have been in operation for the past several years. Hospitals included are Moses Cone hospital in Greensboro, Charlotte Memorial Hospital in Charlotte, New Hanover Memorial Hospital in Wilmington, Wake Memorial Hospital in Raleigh, Edgecombe General Hospital in Tarboro, Nash General Hospital in Rocky Mount and Halifax Memorial Hospital in Roanoke Rapids. Discussions are also underway to develop affiliation agreements with Wilson Memorial Hospital in Wilson and Pitt County Memorial Hospital in Greenville.

In addition to establishing the affiliation programs with the community hospitals, the UNC Medical School faculty members in the past four years provided services to 14,661 patients in clinics operated throughout the State on a regularly-scheduled basis.

There are currently 16 members of the Medical School faculty, working in the community hospitals and more than 100 medical students received part of their education in these institutions last year. In the next five years, it is anticipated that the number of faculty members in these hospitals will increase to 40 and that by the latter part of this decade, the Medical School will provide approximately 25 percent of its clinical education in the community hospitals. The other health science schools will similarly develop and expand educational programs in the area health education centers.

Establishment of the centers is an outgrowth of a Carnegie Commission Report in 1970, which became part of the Comprehensive Health Manpower Training Act passed by Congress in 1971. UNC President William Friday is a member of the commission.

The Commission recommended that 126 area health education centers be developed throughout the United States by 1980. The first centers in the nation were funded by the Bureau of Health Manpower Education.

Specific objectives of the area health education centers are:

- To increase the number and improve the quality of health professionals serving in the area.
- To maintain and improve community hospital capabilities by serving as referral centers for surrounding communities.
- To cooperate with hospitals and community agencies in the planning and development of a more-effective health care delivery system.
- To conduct research programs, primarily in the evaluation of health delivery systems.
- To conduct educational programs under the supervision of the faculty of the University health science center for undergraduate medical students and other health professionals.
- To develop residency programs in the community hospitals.
- To provide training for allied health workers.

Besides making it possible to train dental, nursing, public health and pharmacy students, in addition to medical students, in the community hospitals, these Federal funds will increase the number of interns and residents trained throughout the State. Existing evidence indicates that residents trained in community hospitals tend to stay in the community in which they are trained.